

DECEMBER

at the

CALIFORNIA ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

DECEMBER MEETING

Date: Wednesday, December 14, 8:15 p.m.
Place: Morrison Auditorium
Speaker: Edward S. Ross
Subject: "A NATURALIST'S VISIT
TO MADAGASCAR"

Dr. Ross, who is Curator of the Academy's Department of Entomology, is well-known to recent visitors to the CAS for two noteworthy exhibits of which he is author, "African Album" and "Madagascar Expedition".

Combining his abilities as scientist, photographer and observer, Dr. Ross, in his extensive travelling, manages to bring back a wide variety of color photographs and motion picture film which capture more than the obvious.

Along with his much admired close-ups of insects, Dr. Ross will present photographs and commentary on the general features of the island, its people, climate and vegetation. In company with Academy member H. Vannoy Davis, Dr. Ross made his Madagascar expedition during late 1959 and early 1960. (Members and guests)

MORRISON PLANETARIUM

"THE RIDDLE OF TIME AND THE TIDES" continues through December 11.

Beginning December 13, "THE STAR OF BETHLEHEM", Morrison's traditional holiday show, will be presented for the eighth consecutive year and takes you back in time to witness the heavens as they were at the time of the Birth of Christ. Performances daily, Tuesday through Sunday, at 3:30 and 8:30 p.m., with extra matinees at 2:00 on Saturdays and Sundays. No performances on Tuesday evenings, or on Christmas Eve or all day December 25. Sunday schedule applies December 26 through January 1. (Adults, 75¢, Juniors, 40¢)

SPECIAL EXHIBIT

"DESIGNS IN NATURE". Approximately 200 beautiful enlarged color microphotographs of beetles, butterflies and reptiles, taken by Mr. Stennet S. Heaton of Oakland. The beauty of Mr. Heaton's studies must be seen to be believed. Continues through January 1 in Lovell White Hall of Man and Nature.

NEWS and NOTES

Professional aquatic biologists and ichthyologists from aquaria and marine stations from all over the world attended the first International Aquarium Conference held in Monaco from November 21 through 26. Among them was the Academy's Earl S. Herald who presented a paper on "Filtration and Ultra-violet Sterilization of Sea Water in Large Closed System Aquaria".

The Reverend Samuel A. Wright of Terra Linda, California, has presented the Academy with a section of 4,000 year-old bristlecone pine which he collected on White Mountain Peak, east of the Sierra Nevada. For some fascinating information about bristlecones, a true botanic rarity, readers are referred to the January-February, 1958, issue of PACIFIC DISCOVERY, and the article entitled: "Dendrochronology: Key to the Past".

Reverend White's gift will eventually be on exhibit in the Alice Eastwood Hall of Botany.

Recent visitors to the Academy were Miss Setsuko Nakata of the Bishop Museum, Honolulu, and Dr. Rudolf Florin of the Botanical Garden in Stockholm, Sweden.

Miss Nakata, who is an Assistant in Entomology, spent several days at the Academy furthering her project on the taxonomy of Phasmatidae, or Walking Sticks. Dr. Florin was in the Bay Area presenting the Hitchcock Lectures at the University of California at Berkeley. His general subject was "Conifer Distribution in Time and Space".

Drivers and dispatchers of the Yosemite Gray Line Limousines proved recently that their job is more than just a job insofar as the Academy is concerned. Without solicitation from the heads of their company, 27 of these men, who bring countless visitors to Golden Gate Park to see and enjoy the Academy, got together and made a financial contribution toward the support of an institution that they respect, value and appreciate. Thank you, gentlemen, for this heartwarming gesture!

Mr. J. Stuart Rowley returned recently from a collecting trip in the state of Morelos, Mexico, with some 200 study

skins of birds and mammals, among which were such rarities as a series of white-naped swifts. Mr. Rowley's collecting trip was financed by the Academy.

AVOID THE CHRISTMAS CRUSH

and do some of your shopping at the Academy. At the sales desks, you will find many kinds of science and natural history books, mineral and shell sets, hand-carved birds and animals, and lots of miscellaneous stocking-stuffers. . . all at our Member's discount.

Work continues on the rehabilitation of Steinhart Aquarium. Concrete has been poured for the filters and cisterns involved in the water circulation system, and the demolition of one section of the rear of the building has been completed. Work is now beginning on the construction of the 65,000 gallon porpoise tank.

Mr. and Mrs. George Bunton have returned, happy and sun-tanned, from a combination business-with-pleasure sojourn in Hawaii. George, who is Curator of the Academy's Department of Astronomy, was principal speaker at a joint meeting of the Hawaii Chapter Society of Sigma Xi and the Hawaii Institute of Geophysics.

After the success of the August Open House, plans are now being formulated to give an extra added attraction to the monthly Academy meetings.

Beginning in January, 1961, individual departments will play host to the monthly meetings. In addition to the regularly scheduled lecture or film, the departments will present a brief report on current projects and research within the department, and at the close of the meeting, offer attendees a sociable cup of coffee. Plan on being with us!

The 15th Annual Horticultural Congress of the American Horticultural Society was held in Pasadena, November 10-12. Among those present was Dr. Elizabeth McClintock, Associate Curator of the Department of Botany.

(More NEWS AND NOTES on reverse.)

Meet the Staff



TOSHIO ASAEDA'S diversified talents - photography, painting, taxidermy and sculpture, to mention but a few - make him one of the Academy's most valued staff members. As Assistant Curator in the Department of Exhibits, his hallmark is on such dioramas as the Bongo group, the Desert group, the African Buffalo group, and the Dean Witter cases of birds in Simson African Hall.

Born in Tokyo, Toshio emigrated to the U.S. in 1923. After brief employment in Chicago and New York, he came to San Francisco and performed his first service for the Academy by doing some fish illustration for Steinhart Aquarium. After three additional years in New York, he returned to San Francisco and a job as artist and photographer for Zane Grey and a trip to the South Seas on Grey's yacht, the Fisherman II. In 1932, Toshio was employed by Mr. Templeton Crocker who sponsored the Academy expedition to the Galapagos Islands. In following years, he was official recorder for many of Mr. Crocker's scientific expeditions.

After World War II, he moved to Pasadena where he was preparator for the California Institute of Technology, but returned once again to San Francisco in 1949 and permanent employment at the Academy.

In his spare time, Toshio carves exquisite small wooden birds which are true collector's items, and paints beautiful landscapes in oil. He lives quietly in San Francisco with his wife, Suzuka. They both long for a garden of their own, but in the meantime, happily care for some 50 pots of assorted plants which almost suffice.

NEWS AND NOTES (Cont'd)

Director Robert C. Miller, W. I. Follet of Ichthyology, and Alan E. Leviton of Herpetology, will attend the Annual Meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science being held in New York City, December 26-31.

Dr. Miller will attend in his capacity as President of the Academy Conference. Both Mr. Follett and Dr. Leviton will present papers at meetings of the Society of Systematic Zoology, of which Mr. Follett is President. His paper is entitled "Pre-Columbian Fish Fauna of San Francisco Bay, California". Dr. Leviton's subject is the "Zoogeographical Relations of the Philippine Islands".

Dr. Charles A. Fleming of the New Zealand Geological Survey in Wellington visited the Department of Geology as he was returning from the International Geological Congress held in Copenhagen. His colleague, Dr. Graeme R. Stevens, had visited the Academy earlier this year.

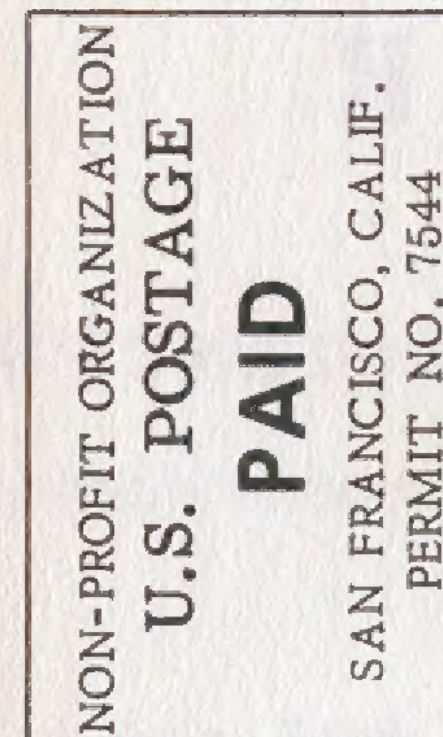
Members of the Astronomy Section are advised that there will be no meeting in December. Next meeting: January 25, 7:30 p.m. The speaker: George Bunton. Subject: "Is There Life on Mars?"

MISCELLANEA: Advance planning for future "Science in Action" programs took Executive Producer Benjamin Draper to New York and Boston during late November. . . Associate Director Joel F. Gustafson spent 10 days making a survey of other museums and academies in southwestern and eastern cities. . . The Department of Geology has received a fine specimen of Kyanite from Mr. Earl D. Dodson of Vancouver, B.C., and Mr. Stuart N. Greenberg of San Francisco has made a gift of a mounted head of an African Cape Buffalo to the Department of Exhibits. . . And now may we of the Academy staff extend to you and yours the happiest of the Season's Greetings, and may 1961 be wonderful for us all!

THE CALIFORNIA ACADEMY OF SCIENCES
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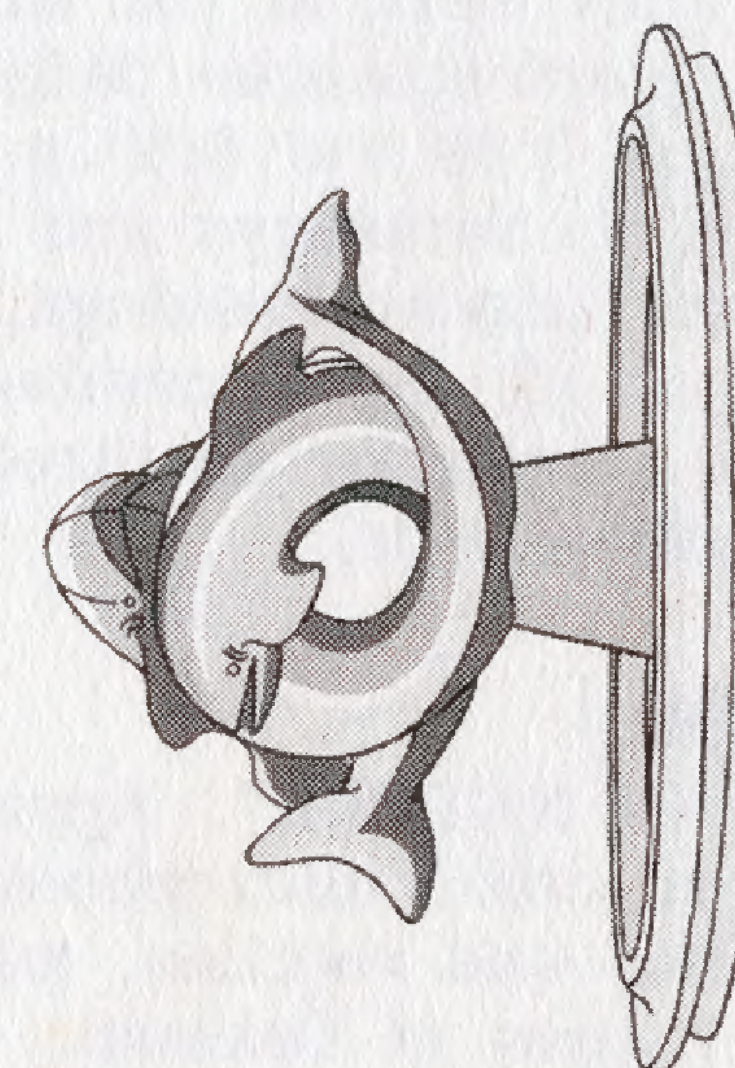
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